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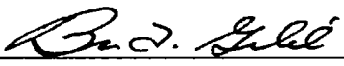
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application Serial No: 10/017,445 Confirmation No.: 6377  
Date Filed: December 14, 2001  
Application Title: Methods For Determining Organisms Not Requiring The  
Separation Of Fixative Or Excess Probe  
Applicants: Rigby et al.  
Group Art Unit: 1634  
Examiner: Sally A. Sakelaris  
Action Date: November 19, 2003  
Action Type: Second Office Action On Merits -FINAL  
Certified Mail No: 7003 1680 0001 6779 2056

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Certificate of Mailing Pursuant to:  
37 C.F.R. §1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Box AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 30<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2004.

  
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Brian D. Gildea  
Reg. No. 39,995

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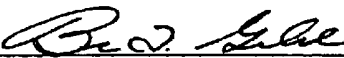
Petition Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)

Commissioner for Patents

Dear Sir or Madam:

Applicants hereby petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for an automatic three-month extension of time to file a response to the Office Action mailed on November 19, 2003.

With this extension, the due date for the response should be May 19, 2004. The Office is hereby authorized to deduct the fee set forth under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a)(1) for a three-month extension for a large entity, believed to be \$ 950.00, from Deposit Account No. 02-3240.

  
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Brian D. Gildea  
Reg. No. 39,995

07/09/2004 CEESAL

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